REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on July 23, 2004. Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. Claims 15 and 16 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 9, 15 and 17 are in independent form. By the present amendment, the title has been replaced, the abstract has been amended and Claims 1, 4, 6, 8-12, 14 and 17 have been amended. No new matter or issues are believed to be introduced by the amendments.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gersho et al., "Vector Quantization and Signal Compression,"1992 ("Gersho et al.").

Claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended to better define Applicant's invention and to overcome the above-noted rejection. In particular, Claim 1 has been amended to recite as follows:

> A near end speech coding method for coding speech to be recognized (STBR) for completion of word-level recognition by a machine at a far end in relation to a dialogue between the near and far ends having an associated vocabulary size (V), said method comprising:
>
> extracting recognition feature vectors (f) frame-wise from received speech to be recognized (STBR);
>
> <u>on a dialogue-by-dialogue basis</u> choosing a number of bits (B) per codebook index or an associated codebook size (Sz) corresponding to the dialogue or an associated vocabulary size (V) from among a plurality of choices;
>
> selecting indices (q) from entries of a codebook having the associated size (Sz) corresponding to the extracted recognition feature vectors (f), and
>
> forming signals for transmission to the far end, which signals are derived from a string of the selected indices (q-string). (Emphasis added)

The cited reference does not disclose or suggest the above-underlined limitations which have been added to Claim 1. Similar recitations have been added to Claims 9 and 17 and the same arguments presented below with respect to Claim 1 apply to these claims as well.

Gersho et al. describes the well known processes of vector quantization and signal compression. Gersho et al. does not describe Applicant's claimed step of on a dialogue-by-

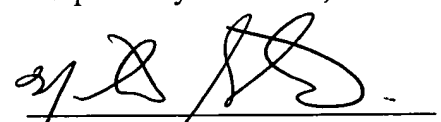
dialogue basis choosing a number of bits (B) per codebook index or an associated codebook size (Sz) corresponding to the dialogue or an associated vocabulary size (V) from among a plurality of choices, as recited by Applicant's Claim 1. Accordingly, it is believed that Applicant's Claims 1, 9 and 17 recite patentable subject matter, and therefore, withdrawal of the rejection with respect to Claims 1, 9 and 17 and allowance of Claims 1, 9 and 17 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-8 and 10-14 depend from Claims 1 and 9, and therefore include the limitations of Claims 1 and 9. Accordingly, for the same reasons given above for Claims 1 and 9, Claims 2-8 and 10-14 are believed to contain patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection with respect to Claims 2-8 and 10-14 and allowance of Claims 2-8 and 10-14 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application and not withdrawn, namely, Claims 1-14 and 17, are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Dicran Halajian, Esq., Intellectual Property Counsel, Philips Electronics North America, at 914-333-9607.

Respectfully submitted,



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